Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, AUGUST 21-23, 2015 | High 21°C/Low 13°C Sun and clouds

KRISTEN STEWART CONQUERS CRITICS AND BOX OFFICE

metroLIFE

BEATLEMANIA IS BACK

COME TOGETHER FOR NEW FAB FOUR EXHIBIT AT PNE

metroNEWS

Ex-police chief appointed to TransLink board

TRANSPORTATION

Province must be more involved, minister says

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Two municipal insiders, including Vancouver's last police chief, are the first-ever provincial appointments to the TransLink board of directors.

Minister Responsible for TransLink Peter Fassbender announced on Thursday that retired Vancouver Police Department chief Jim Chu and former Surrey city manager Murray Dinwoodie have been appointed as directors of the transportation authority effective immediately.

It marks the first time that the province has ever appointed its own representatives to the TransLink board.

"I know that these two leaders will help us chart a new course (for TransLink)," said Fassbender, the former Langley mayor who was handed responsibility of TransLink by Premier Christy Clark last month.

Fassbender said the failed plebiscite on transit funding and the public's lack of trust in TransLink highlighted the need for the province to be more engaged in the transit authority.

As the province's representatives, Fassbender said Chu and Dinwoodie have been told to focus on "accountability and fiscal prudence" at TransLink.

Legislative changes made by Fassbender's predecessor, Transportation Minister Todd Stone, created two board positions for the co-chairs of the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation (currently Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner).

Fassbender said he consulted with the mayors' council before making his appointments, and believes he had their approval.

Given Chu and Dinwoodie's background, they should be a welcome one for the mayors, but it still comes up short of their demands for a complete restructuring of TransLink's governance.

TransLink board chairman Barry Forbes welcomed Chu and Dinwoodie in a statement.

"Their expertise, insight, and sterling record of public service will strengthen the board's ability to serve this region," Forbes said.

He also announced that TransLink has put their search for a new CEO on hold until the new members get up to speed.

TransLink, currently led by acting CEO Cathy McLay, was advertising the job online at the same compensation package former CEO Ian Jarvis got: A $319,244 annual salary, with a 30 per cent bonus, six weeks vacation and benefit package that includes a $14,400 annual transportation allowance.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Caitlyn Jenner could face vehicular manslaughter charge. **World**

A million (or so) cyclists have used Burrard Bridge in 2015

TRANSPORTATION

Such high traffic volume typically takes a year to reach

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

The City of Vancouver is celebrating a biking milestone on the Burrard Bridge this year. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

The City of Vancouver is celebrating the fact that one million-ish bikes have crossed the Burrard Bridge already this year, even though officials admit the data could be off by as much as 10 per cent.

The bike counter at the south end of the bridge is expected to hit seven digits sometime on Friday, a milestone that usually takes a full year to reach, the city's director of transportation Lon LaClaire said Thursday.

Even though the counter isn't perfect — LaClaire said this particular one is "off by between five to 10 per cent," or up to 100,000 trips in either direction — it reveals a big jump from previous years.

"The fact that this year we're reaching one million so early in the year is really surprising to us," LaClaire said. "It's a pretty dramatic change."

There's no doubt the hot, dry weather had some influence on the volume, he said, but he hopes the bike traffic increase comes in part from the safety improvements made to the south intersection last year.

The counter uses an induction loop that detects metal when a bike crosses over. The city also uses counter hoses in this location to double-check its information. The hoses count the "bump bump" of a bicycle, making it challenging to set them off by jumping on one.

The technology is an improvement over having people count bikes passing by (they still do this sometimes), but it's not precise.

"We can never be 100 per cent accurate — there is no possible way," LaClaire said.

Regardless, he said counting is important for transportation planners so they can see if investments pay off.

"In the world of transportation, counting has been a lifesaver because when you're trying to do stuff that's controversial it's always under the microscope," LaClaire said. "We need to be as complete and thorough with the data as we can be."

Improvements to the south intersection cost $6 million. The city plans to mirror it at the north end of the bridge as part of a massive $35-million renovation that will include removing another vehicle lane to create a separate bike lane and sidewalk on the bridge's east side.

The city is trying to get more people to cycle, walk and take transit as part of its greenest city goals.

To celebrate the increase in bike traffic on the Burrard Bridge, the city set up a tent by the counter on Thursday to hand out free swag. The celebration cost $1,038, LaClaire said.

MUSIC

Bon Jovi concert back on

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Bon Jovi fans can stop livin' on a prayer that the rock legend would somehow still perform in Vancouver after his Stanley Park concert was cancelled earlier this week.

The artist's management announced Thursday that Jon Bon Jovi and the Kings of Suburbia will perform at Rogers Arena on Saturday.

Fans with tickets to the original show, which was cancelled earlier this week over permit and alleged payment issues with Vancouver concert promoter Paper Rain Performances, will have their passes honoured.

Seating will be assigned according to the ticket level previously purchased. No additional tickets will be sold.

"Ever since we were forced to announce the cancellation of Stanley Park, Paper Rain Performances has perpetuated confusion and misinformation," said Bon Jovi's manager Paul Korzilius in a statement, referring to the concert promoter that filed for bankruptcy Wednesday.

"Through it all, it has been Jon's main concern that he find a way to make good on the promoter's failed attempt to put on the show.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show is slated to start at 8.

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TRANS MOUNTAIN

Kinder Morgan addresses environmental concerns

An expanded Trans Mountain pipeline would add $18.2 billion to Canada's gross domestic product over 20 years, benefit First Nations and reduce environmental harm, Kinder Morgan says.

The energy giant filed its final written submissions to the National Energy Board on Thursday, arguing the $5.4-billion proposal is a safe and viable option to transport diluted bitumen from Alberta's oilsands to British Columbia's coast.

"The scrutiny and rigour this project has undergone, both inside and outside of the formal NEB process, is unprecedented," said Ian Anderson, president of Kinder Morgan Canada, in a statement.

"Our team takes pride in the efforts made to consider input and present the very best scientific and technical evidence to both the public and the regulator."

An oil tank at the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline terminal in Burnaby on Thursday.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kinder Morgan hopes to triple the capacity of its Trans Mountain line by laying almost 1,000 kilometres of new pipe from Edmonton to Metro Vancouver. The project would increase the number of tankers to 34 per month from five in Burrard Inlet.

The energy board will make a recommendation to the federal government in January.

In documents filed Thursday, the company addressed scathing evidence issued by interveners earlier this year. One expert report from Metro Vancouver found toxic benzene fumes from a spill could make up to one million people sick.

Kinder Morgan said the report, conducted by Levelton Consultants Ltd., is misleading because it presents a worst-case scenario without qualification and doesn't account for its planned $100-million investment in spill response.

It also vowed to meet 145 draft conditions issued last week by the energy board, but asked for scheduling changes. For example, the board asked for some reports to be filed a year before construction, but the company hopes to begin some work in June 2016.

The company said it has signed 28 mutual benefits agreements with First Nations and promised to create employment and training opportunities for aboriginal communities.

Trans Mountain spokeswoman Ali Hounsell said public feedback has prompted changes to the project, including thickening pipeline walls in cities, and routing to avoid 22 major river crossings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

1,000 km

The length of new pipeline Kinder Morgan Canada hopes to lay to upgrade Trans Mountain, from Edmonton to Vancouver.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Police, businesses worry over street party

More than 5,100 people have RSVP'd to an unsanctioned street party scheduled for Commercial Drive on Friday night, which organizers appear to be plowing ahead with despite warnings from the police.

Organizers from a group called VanCity Mayday have refused to work with police on planning the event, stating they do not believe people should need permits to gather and dance in public spaces.

But police say the neighbourhood was a mess after a similar event in May, which turned violent.

It's not clear whether organizers will supply bathrooms.

The Commercial Drive Business Society, which represents nearly 700 owners, doesn't support the event because it had a negative impact in May, executive director Nick Pogor said.

Pogor said some of the mom and pop shops on the Drive are planning to shut early due to fears of shoplifting. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

SCHEDULE "A"

Form 10 (Rule 4-4 (3))

No. M155758
New Westminster Registry

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BETWEEN:

VERA SOURGAEVA

PLAINTIFF

AND:

JOHN DOE and PETER CRAIG

DEFENDANTS

AND:

INSURANCE CORPORATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

THIRD PARTY

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To: PETER CRAIG, Defendant, last known to reside at 204 Phillips Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 5P1

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BY ORDER OF THIS COURT, made on August 13, 2015, it has been ordered that service of the Third Party Notice on you be effected by this advertisement. If you desire to defend the proceeding, you must enter a response at the New Westminster Registry at 651 Carnavon Street, New Westminster, BC.

If you do not file a response within 21 days of the publication of this advertisement, then you will not be entitled to further notice and 14 days thereafter the Third Party may proceed against you to recover any monies paid by the Third Party to the Plaintiff.

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Beatlemania returns to PNE

ROCK 'N' ROLL

Rarely seen, autographed record to be unveiled

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Peter Miniaci still remembers the nerve-racking moment he transported one of the grisliest, and most valuable, artifacts in rock 'n' roll history as carry-on luggage.

The Toronto-based Beatles memorabilia dealer was delivering a copy of John Lennon's Double Fantasy, an LP Lennon autographed for Mark David Chapman — his killer.

On Dec. 8, 1980, Lennon signed the record, just five hours before Chapman went on to shoot him outside his New York home. The LP was allegedly found by a maintenance worker in a planter outside the home and handed to police, who uncovered Chapman's fingerprints on the sleeve.

"I flew to Los Angeles to pick it up and carried it as a carry-on the plane," Miniaci told Metro. "And I'm nervous, right? I have this million-dollar item in my possession."

After placing the LP in the plane's overhead compartment, Miniaci said his nerves immediately dissipated when he spotted a passenger wearing a Beatles T-shirt, taking it as a sign from the "universe" that the valuable item would survive the trip.

"I was thinking to myself, OK, I want to tell this guy that I've got this iconic item," he said, adding with a laugh: "But I didn't. I didn't want to create a frenzy. Beatlemania on the plane."

The rarely seen record, however, is sure to ignite Beatlemania again when it is unveiled at The Magical History Tour: A Beatles Memorabilia Exhibition at The Fair at the PNE on Saturday.

Vancouver was selected as the location for the world-premiere of the exhibition, which is debuting 51 years to the day that the Fab Four performed in this city to thousands of screaming fans at Empire Stadium.

The exhibition— the result of five Beatles memorabilia collectors and dealers, including Miniaci, coming together to showcase one of the most extensive collections ever assembled in a tour — details the band from their beginnings in Liverpool to the genesis of The Beatles to their breakup, and beyond.

Among some of the items in the exhibition that have rarely been seen by the public is the so-called "break-up letter" documenting the band's split in 1969, as well as a collection of images from photographer Curt Gunther.

Gunther, who begged to be the band's photographer during their 1964 North American tour and took on the role without pay, is credited with recording some of the most profound images of The Beatles at the time.

Tickets to the exhibition are available outside the exhibit entrance at The Fair at the PNE, which runs Aug. 22 to Sept. 7.

A vintage Ludwig full-size drum kit exactly like the one played by Ringo Star in 1963 is among several unique items on display at The Magical History Tour: A Beatles Memorabilia Exhibition at the Fair at the PNE. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

A copy of John Lennon's Double Fantasy, the record Lennon signed for Mark David Chapman just five hours before Chapman went on to kill the musician. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

MORE INFO

The Fair at the PNE opens Saturday and runs until Sept. 7.

Highlights at this year's Fair include a Craft Beer Festival, a Broadway production of Peter Pan starring Cathy Rigby, as well as returning favourites like Superdogs.

Thousands of people stroll through downtown New Westminster at last year's Columbia StrEAT event.
CONTRIBUTED/DOWNTOWN NEW WESTMINSTER BIA

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Canada's biggest food truck festival returns

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

"Bring backup."

And an empty stomach.

And lots of Tupperware.

The 75,000 people expected to drop in on this year's Columbia StrEAT food truck festival in New Westminster on Saturday will need all three, and more, to conquer the event, according to Downtown New Westminster Business Improvement Association events co-ordinator Maddison McKitrick.

"You definitely want to plan ahead and figure out where the trucks you want to hit up will be parked," McKitrick said.

"I have my favourites, Aussie Pie Guy and Community Pizzeria, but I'm going to try to visit trucks I've never tried before. There are so many choices, I've never been disappointed."

The largest festival of its kind will feature more than 70 food trucks, 30 food outlets, beer gardens and live entertainment along eight blocks of downtown New Westminster's Columbia Street.

If the seemingly endless culinary fare from all over the world is too daunting, you can also duck into the Royal City Farmers' Market for some shopping or catch some live music.

Now in its third year, Columbia StrEAT is billed as the largest one-day food truck festival in Canada.

The festival runs Saturday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The full line-up of trucks and food options can be found at www.downtownnewwest.ca.

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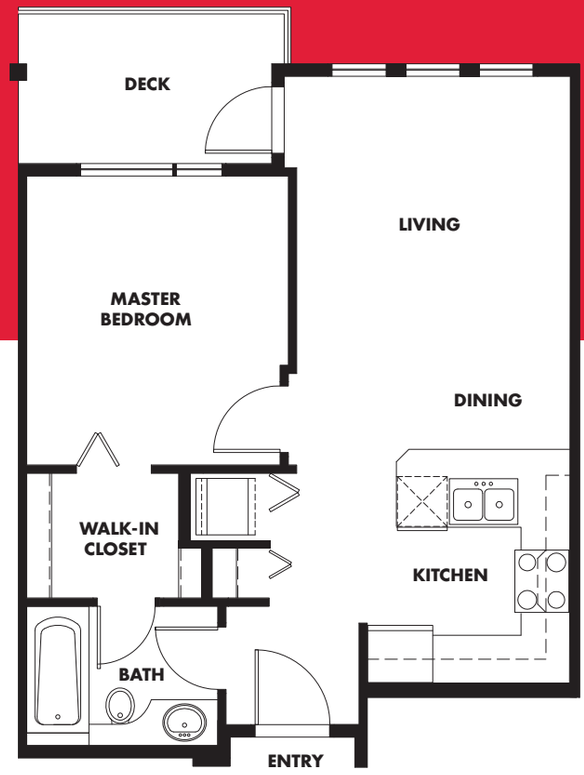

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Six thousand people have signed up for slippery ride

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Who needs a car when you can take a waterslide down Lonsdale?

A massive slip-and-slide is taking over the City of North Vancouver on Saturday, the municipality's first Car Free Day in seven years.

Six thousand people bought tickets to the Slide the City event, which North Van made happen as part of the family-friendly car-free street festival.

"Everyone in North Van is always complaining about the huge hill that we have," the city's Juliana Buitenhuis said Thursday. "We thought, let's take advantage of this amazing hill and put a slide down it."

Slide the City is trucking in 50,000 litres of water — it paid for it — from outside Metro Vancouver in order to obey the Stage 3 water restrictions. It will be recirculated and used to water trees once the event is over.

Buitenhuis is encouraging everyone to come out for the event, which features live music, even if they don't have tickets. There will be extra SeaBus service and a bike valet to make it easier for people to leave their cars at home.

Slide the City is trucking in 50,000 litres of water from outside Metro Vancouver in order to obey the Stage 3 water restrictions. CONTRIBUTED

IN BRIEF

Kayakers find human remains after 19-year-old woman goes missing

Police on Vancouver Island say they have contacted the family of a missing 19-year-old woman after human remains were found near where she was last seen. RCMP have said Delores Brown was reportedly walking on Penelakut Island on July 27 and that foul play was involved in her disappearance.

Cpl. Darren Lagan says kayakers discovered the remains Wednesday on nearby Norway Island and the coroners service is working to identify them. Lagan says police will contact the deceased person's next of kin when that process has been completed.

However, he says investigators have been in touch with Brown's family to prepare them for the possibility that the remains belong to her, given that nobody else has been reported missing in the area. Two RCMP units as well as police air services and volunteers have participated in searches for the First Nations woman. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Urban Escapes: The Shipyards

A quick Seabus ride away, just past the jostling crowds at the Quay, the North Vancouver Shipyards offer a glimpse into the port's past.

PHOTOS AND STORY: AMY LOGAN/FOR METRO

STORIED HISTORY

From 1906 to 1992, the area then known as Wallace Shipyards built over 450 vessels, from wooden boats to merchant marine vessels.

At their peak, they employed 14,000 workers, including 1,000 women. During WWI, the shipyards made shells for 18-pounder guns and built cargo schooners, and the Burrard Dry Dock was the biggest Canadian port in the war. Today the area has been reimagined with interpretive signage, public art, and a museum; Shipbuilders Square has become a hub for concerts, fests and a farmers market.

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ROCK CREEK

Wind may stall firefighting efforts

Firefighters have made progress in containing the Rock Creek fire east of Osoyoos but changing weather could be their biggest foe.

The 42-square kilometre blaze is now 50 per cent contained, but forecasts for the boundary region call for a dry, cold front and wind.

"Wind is going to be a challenge for us over the next few days in terms of potentially fuelling some of the existing fires," fire information officer Kevin Skrepnek said Thursday.

Thirty homes and 15 other structures have been destroyed since the human-caused blaze broke out one week ago.

Hundreds of people who left their homes as flames encroached have returned, but they are on alert to leave again at a moment's notice.

The Rock Creek fire is one of more than 200 blazes currently burning across the province, for a total of 1,722 wildfires since April.

Fire officials are keeping a watch on the Stickpin fire burning in Washington state, just south of Grand Forks, in case it crosses the border into B.C.

Staff in the province's southeast fire centre are in "pretty constant communication" with their U.S. counterparts about the state of the fire, Skrepnek said.

$5 million

Amount the province has spent thus far to fight fires, including 200 that are currently blazing.

B.C. firefighters have been successful in attacking new fires in B.C. over the last week, Skrepnek said. Of 246 wildfires discovered in the last seven days, crews kept all but 35 to less than one hectare in size.

The province has spent $219 million fighting fires so far this year, including $657,000 on a contract for the iconic Martin Mars water bomber.

Skrepnek said about 2,000 people are currently fighting wildfires across the province.

Twenty-five South Africans who have been helping battle a blaze near Harrison Lake are scheduled to return home later this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Mayor lauds economic spinoff from new $40M casino in B.C.'s Interior

The mayor of a city in British Columbia's Interior says hundreds of jobs were created as a result of the construction of a new casino.

Cascades Casino Kamloops opened the doors to its new $40 million, 5,800-square-metre entertainment centre on Wednesday night in the same city that's home to the B.C. Lottery Corporation's head office.

The casino will employ 330 people and Mayor Peter Milobar says in a news release that 200 of those positions are new.

Lottery corporation CEO Jim Lightbody says the casino reflects his organization's long-held vision to provide the city with "an outstanding gaming facility."

The facility is owned by Burnaby, B.C.,-based Gateway Casinos & Entertainment, which also operates in Alberta and is looking to expand into Ontario.

The company says it is currently redeveloping two properties in Edmonton. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CANADA WIDE CLEARANCE

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1 Visit onstar.ca for coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services vary by model, conditions and geographical and technical restrictions. OnStar with 4G LTE connectivity is available on select models and in select markets. Customers will be able to access OnStar services only if they accept the OnStar User Terms and Privacy Statement and Software Terms. After the trial period (if applicable), an active OnStar service plan is required. **2** Devices must be WPA2 compliant. Wi-Fi devices manufactured prior to 2006 may not be compatible. Please consult your device manufacturer for information regarding the WPA2 security protocol and Wi-Fi device compatibility. Vehicle must be started or in accessory mode to access Wi-Fi. Visit onstar.ca for system details and limitations. **3** 2015 Cruze LTZ fuel consumption ratings based on GM testing in accordance with new 2015 Model Year Government of Canada approved test methods. Refer to vehicles.nrcan.gc.ca for details. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. **4** Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles delivered from July 30th and August 31st, 2015. 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank for 84 months on all new or demonstrator 2015 Cruze LS 1SA & Diesel. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $40,000 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is $476.19 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $0, total obligation is $40,000. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. Freight and air tax ($100, if applicable) included. Licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, applicable taxes and dealer fees not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ® Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada. $1,000 finance cash offer is a manufacturer to dealer credit (tax exclusive) for a 2015 Cruze which is available for finance offers only and cannot be combined with special lease rates and cash purchase. **5** Offer valid in Canada until 2015-08-31 for qualified retail customers. 0% lease APR available for 48 months on a new 2015 Chevrolet Cruze LT Automatic on approved credit by GM Financial. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometre. A down payment or trade of $0 and/or $0 security deposit is required. Bi-weekly payments will vary depending on down payment/trade. Example: 2015 Chevrolet Cruze LT Automatic, including freight and air conditioning levy ($100, if applicable), is $18,798 at 0% APR, Bi-weekly Payment is $95.04 for 48 Months. Total obligation is $9,884. Option to purchase at lease end is $8,913, plus applicable taxes. License, insurance, registration, PPSA, excess wear and tear and km charges, applicable taxes, dealer fees, and other applicable fees not included. Other lease options available. Dealers are free to set individual prices and payments. Limited time offer which may not be combined with certain other offers. General Motors of Canada may modify, extend or terminate offers, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See participating dealer for details. **6** Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer car that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2015 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac car, SUV, crossover and pickups models delivered in Canada between July 30th and August 31st, 2015. Credit is $500 credit available on Chevrolet Cruze. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer June request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. 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This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. $2,500 is a combined total credit consisting of $500 Owner Cash (tax inclusive) and a $2,000 manufacturer to dealer cash credit (tax exclusive) for a 2015 Cruze LS 1SB which is available for cash purchases only and cannot be combined with special lease and finance rates. By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this $2,000 credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. Discounts vary by model and cash credit excludes Cruze LS-1SA and Diesel.

Novak knew about $90K, lawyer says

DUFFY TRIAL

PM's current chief of staff heard details twice: Witness

Ray Novak, the current chief of staff to Conservative Leader Stephen Harper, twice heard Nigel Wright say he would personally provide Sen. Mike Duffy with the money to repay questionable housing expenses, a Crown witness told an Ottawa courtroom today.

Benjamin Perrin, a former lawyer in the Prime Minister's Office, said Novak was sitting at the head of a boardroom table on March 22, 2013, as he and Wright prepared for a conference call with Janice Payne, the lawyer who was negotiating with the PMO about a plan to have Duffy reimburse the Senate for inappropriate living expenses.

Perrin, a witness for the Crown in Duffy's ongoing criminal trial, said as they discussed the possibility that Duffy might go back on his public commitment to voluntarily repay the expenses, Wright, Harper's chief of staff at that time, said they would be repaid because he was paying for them himself.

"I was quite surprised by that statement from him. He had never discussed it with me or consulted with me in any way. It had never been in any contemplation that I ever heard of or speculated on. So, because it was so surprising to me, I immediately looked to my right to see Mr. Novak's reaction and he didn't have any reaction to that information," Perrin told the court Thursday.

Perrin said Wright repeated that information on the conference call with Payne and that Novak, at the time Harper's principal secretary, remained in the room throughout the call.

The assertion from Perrin that Novak knew about the $90,172 Wright provided to Duffy was previously shared with the court Tuesday, when defence attorney Donald Bayne read from an interview Perrin had given to the RCMP.

This was the first time the court heard it directly from Perrin.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Benjamin Perrin
FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ELECTION 2015

Grits vow $190M care benefits hike

Justin Trudeau directed his bid for the votes of middle-class families Thursday at Canadians needing to care for a sick loved one, promising that a Liberal government would ensure they have better access to financial support.

As prime minister, Trudeau said, he would commit $190 million to expand the compassionate care benefit — a pledge he said would have no impact on the amount Canadians pay in employment insurance premiums.

"Too often folks are forced to leave their jobs and drain their personal savings to provide essential care," said Trudeau, speaking on the campaign trail in Esquimalt, on southern Vancouver Island. "That's not right."

> **"Caring for each other is an essential part of what makes us Canadian.**
> Justin Trudeau

Under the broadened Liberal program, Trudeau said benefits could be claimed by someone caring for an ailing family member over and above what they're able to provide in off-work hours, as well as by parents tending to a gravely ill child.

"It's an investment in our middle class but, more to the point, it's simply the right thing to do," Trudeau said. "Caring for each other is an essential part of what makes us Canadian."

Government documents disclosed under Freedom of Information laws reveal that different stakeholder groups — including the Canadian Cancer Society and the ALS Society — lobbied the Conservatives for changes similar to those being promised by the Liberals, including broadening eligibility requirements beyond only those in need of end-of-life care.

In its response section, the document said claimants could be eligible for a second period of compassionate care benefits if a loved one's illness subsided before returning later.

Shortly after beginning his address about the importance of caring for loved ones, Trudeau offered some family affection himself, kissing his two aunts who were both on hand in Esquimalt for their nephew's announcement.

The Liberal party traditionally hasn't performed well on Vancouver Island, though Trudeau appeared to be looking to gain traction in the southern region, where there's been a historical spattering of support.

The Grits' most recent Island MP — medical doctor and longtime politician Keith Martin — chose not to run again in 2011, saying he was fed up with the hyper-partisan culture that had emerged in Ottawa.

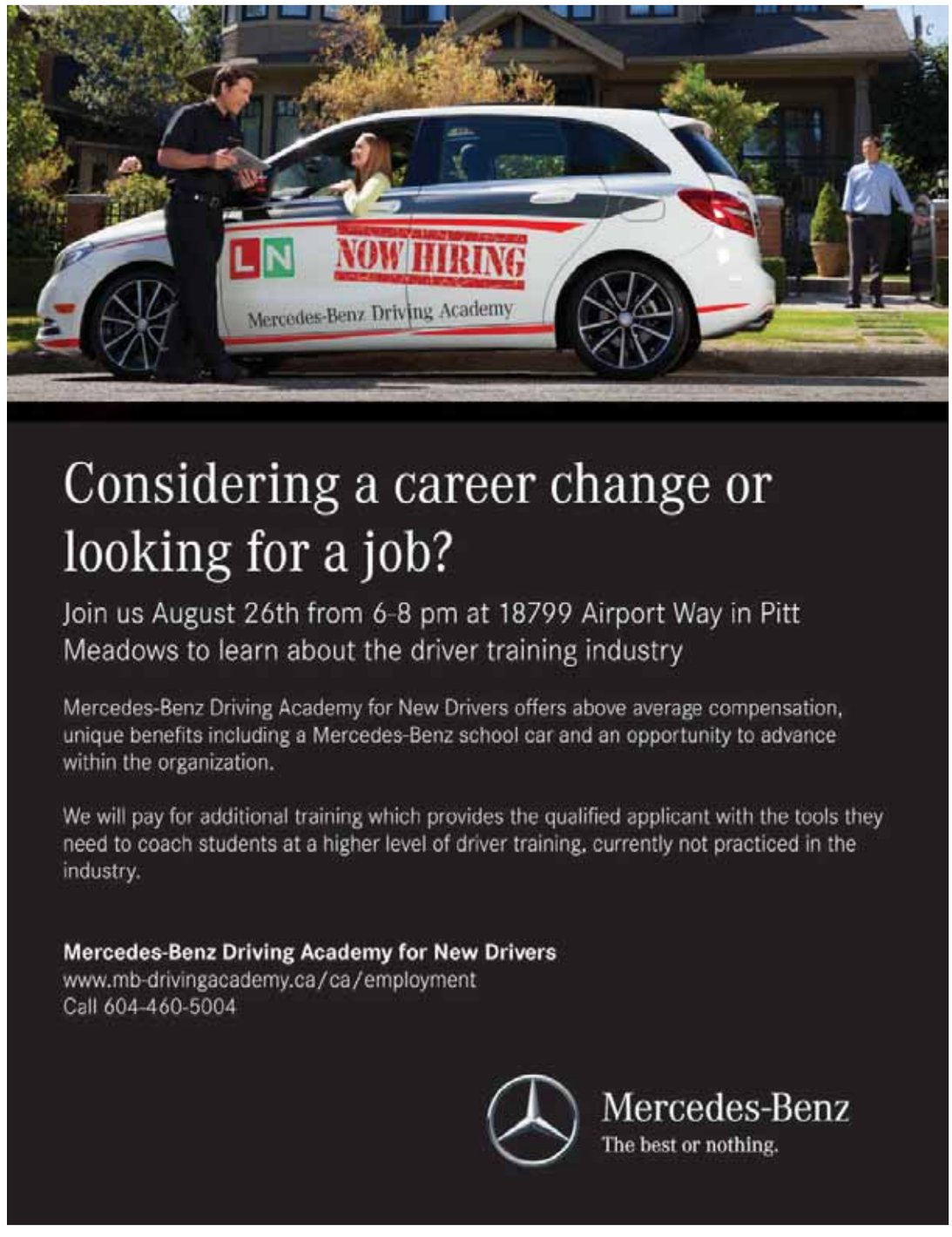
THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE FRIDAY

Stephen Harper: Itinerary unavailable.

Justin Trudeau, Tom Mulcair and **Elizabeth May** have no public events scheduled.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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GT model shown

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A youngster cools down in Bucharest, Romania, in July, when a heat wave affected large areas of the country with temperatures higher than 37 C. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

2015 to be hottest year on record

GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change 'accelerating': U.S. weather officials

Earth just keeps getting hotter. July was the planet's warmest month on record, smashing old marks, U.S. weather officials said.

And it's almost a dead certain lock that this year will beat last year as the warmest year on record, they said.

July's average temperature was 16.6 C, beating the previous global mark set in 1998 and 2010 by about one-tenth of a degree, according to figures released Thursday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That's a large margin for weather records, with previous monthly heat records broken by a 30th of a degree or less.

"It just reaffirms what we already know: that the Earth is warming," said NOAA climate scientist Jake Crouch. "The warming is accelerating and we're really seeing it this year."

NOAA records go back to 1880. Separate calculations by NASA and the Japanese weather agency also found July 2015 to be a record.

The first seven months of 2015 were the hottest January-to-July span on record, according to NOAA.

The seven-month average temperature of 14.7 C is 0.72 degrees warmer than the 20th-century average and a twelfth of a degree warmer than the old record set in 2010.

Given that the temperatures have already been so high already — especially the oceans, which are slow to cool — NOAA climate scientist Jessica Blunden said she is "99 per cent certain" that 2015 will be the hottest on record for the globe.

The oceans would have to cool dramatically to prevent it, and they are trending warmer, not cooler, she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER

Jenner charged

Sheriff's investigators plan to recommend prosecutors file a vehicular manslaughter charge against Caitlyn Jenner for her role in a fatal car crash on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu last February, officials said Thursday.

Investigators found that Jenner was driving "unsafe for the prevailing road conditions" because her SUV rear-ended a Lexus, pushing it into oncoming traffic, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Nicole Nishida said.

The Lexus driver, 69-year-old Kim Howe, was killed when her car was struck head-on by a Hummer.

If convicted of such a charge, Jenner could face up to one year in county jail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CRIME

Review board mulls Pistorius release

A review board has up to four months to decide whether and when Oscar Pistorius will be released from prison into house arrest, a spokesman for South Africa's justice ministry said on Thursday.

Two days before he was due to leave prison, Pistorius's early release was put on hold Wednesday by South Africa's justice department, which sent his case back to a parole review board. The athlete's release was approved eight months into his five-year prison sentence, when he should have served 10 months before even being considered for release, said justice department spokesman Mthunzi Mhaga.

Pistorius, the double-amputee Olympic runner, was convicted last year of manslaughter for killing his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in 2013.

News of the postponed release came to the Steenkamp family as they held a beachside commemoration for Reeva Steenkamp on Wednesday, what would have been her 32nd birthday, said Jacqui Mofokeng, a member of the women's group who petitioned the justice minister to delay Pistorius' release.

"The mood changed," said Mofokeng. "They sent a number of messages to individuals to say, 'Thank you very much. This is a better birthday than last year.'" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Touring package, only 15,813 km's, full time AWD, power moonroof, front dual zone A/C, Bluetooth, heated front seats, split folding rear seats, fog lights.
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B3955

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3498A

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BB3929

2015 FORESTER TOURING
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BB3885

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B3939

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BB3910

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B3997

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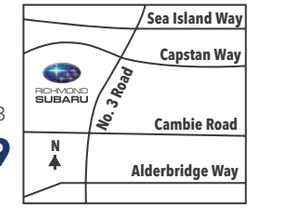

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PRESENTATION

Foods take on new colours

Mozzarella cheese at Panera restaurants won't be as glaringly white. Banana peppers in Subway sandwiches won't be the same exact shade of yellow. Trix cereal will have two fewer colours.

Food makers are purging their products of artificial dyes as people increasingly eschew anything in their food they don't feel is natural.

But replicating the vivid colours Americans expect with ingredients like beets and carrots isn't always easy.

In fact, General Mills couldn't find good alternatives for the blue and green pieces in Trix, so the company is getting rid of those colours when the cereal is reformulated later this year. The red pieces — which will be coloured with radishes and strawberries — will also look different.

Colours made from fruits, vegetables and spices, present more challenges than artificial dyes. In addition to costing more, colours from fruits and vegetables can be sensitive to heat and acidity.

And since they're used in higher doses to achieve boldness, tweaks to other parts of recipes may be needed. Such adjustments can be tricky for companies that manufacture on massive scales.

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Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, flanked by his aides, leaves the presidential palace in Athens after presenting his resignation Thursday. LOUISA GOULIAMAKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Greek PM quits after rebellion

POLITICS

Sept. 20 is likeliest date for elections, officials say

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras resigned Thursday and called early elections, an attempt to get a new, stronger mandate to implement a three-year bailout program that sparked a rebellion within his radical left party.

In a televised address to the nation, Tsipras said his government got the best deal possible for the country when it agreed to an 86-billion-euro ($95-billion-US) bailout from other eurozone countries.

The rescue was all that kept Greece from a disastrous exit from the euro but came with strict terms to cut spending and raise taxes — the very measures Tsipras had pledged to fight when he won elections.

His U-turn in accepting the demands by the country's creditors led to outrage among hardliners in his Syriza party, with dozens voting against him during the bailout's ratification in parliament last week, which was approved thanks to support from opposition parties.

> **The popular mandate I received on Jan. 25 has exhausted its limits.**
> Alexis Tsipras

Tsipras has insisted that although he disagrees with the conditions of the bailout terms, he had no choice but to accept and implement them to keep Greece in the euro, which the vast majority of Greeks want.

With the country's finances now secured, Tsipras said he felt obliged to let the Greek people evaluate his work.

Tsipras had delayed a decision on whether to call new elections until after Greece received the first installment from the bailout and made a debt repayment to the European Central Bank, both of which it did Thursday.

"Now that this difficult cycle has ended … I feel the deep moral and political obligation to set before your judgment everything I have done, both right and wrong, the achievements and the omissions," he said in the address. "The popular mandate I received on Jan. 25 has exhausted its limits."

Tsipras formally submitted his resignation to the country's president, Prokopis Pavlopoulos to begin the election process. Tsipras did not mention a date for the election, but government officials say Sept. 20 is the likeliest date.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
WEEKEND, August 21-23, 2015

THE KOHLER REPORT: ON INFANT INTERLOPERS

I don't think anyone enjoys excluding babies, but I do think a lot of people enjoy certain activities more when babies are excluded.

I woke up this morning wondering how I could alienate myself from all my friends who have children. And then it hit me: Write a column about how I don't want them to bring their children places. So here I am.

Earlier this week a Winnipeg mother attempted to bring her two-month-old son to an outdoor theatre to see the play Sister Act and was turned away due to the theatre's "no babes in arms" policy. The mum then went to the media crying foul. I say all is fair in love, war and Whoopi Goldberg-inspired theatre.

I don't think anyone enjoys excluding babies, but I do think a lot of people enjoy certain activities more when babies have been excluded. Plays, for instance. The dramatic arts are best enjoyed in an environment devoid of distractions, noise and "eau de poo," and the problem with babies is that all of those things are kind of their shtick. A baby is like a soft little boom box with no volume control that intermittently plays high-pitched noises. Frankly, Sister Act has enough of those on its own.

I was doing stand-up in a suburb north of Toronto a few months ago when someone showed up with their six-week-old daughter. I now know that a great way to ruin a good abortion joke is to have a tiny heckler punctuate it with several goo-goos and ga-gas.

I'm pretty easygoing about babies in most situations. I like babies. But what about that whole "There's a time and a place" thing? What if I showed up to a Gymboree Play & Learn and started doing shots in the corner? How would that go down?

It's pretty hard to talk about this without feeling like a very bad person. Nobody wants to resent a baby, except maybe their older sibling. And I admit that I don't have kids so I don't know what it's like to really, really, really want to see Sister Act in an outdoor theatre in Winnipeg and not be allowed to. I can only imagine the sorrow.

I'm not saying your baby isn't important (I believe that children are our future), but why should your and your baby's happiness override that of others?

Maybe one day I will have a baby and I'll reread this column and dislike myself greatly. Maybe I'll try to go somewhere with my baby and be turned away. Maybe I'll be angry and go to the news station or maybe I'll say to myself, "Relax, Rebecca. There's lots of other stuff you can do with your baby. You can go to Chippendales another time."

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler.

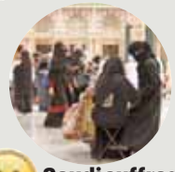
The Ashley Madison leak: Violation or case of karma? Visit metronews.ca to answer our poll.

Happy face / Sad face

From **sexy soirees** to **invading insects,**
Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

An accessible orgy

In some ways it was like any other sex party in Toronto: booze flowing, burlesque dancers dancing and a performance artist painting in the nude. But this sold-out show offered something different: hydraulic lifts and harnesses to help people get in and out of wheelchairs, and free entry to personal support workers. As far as the organizers know, Deliciously Disabled was the city's first sex party specifically for people with disabilities, and it provided both X-rated fun for those involved and a reminder to everyone that disability and sexuality aren't mutually exclusive. SOURCE: VICE

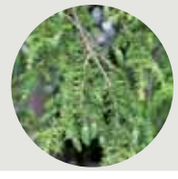


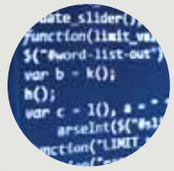
Saudi suffrage celebration

In a seriously belated suffragette-style victory, the first Saudi Arabian women have registered to vote in local elections. They'll also be able to stand for office for the first time in December. Local feminists are now leading a drive to register women to vote, and the newly named King Salman is gaining international praise for approving the measure, despite the late date. Amidst all the cheering, some Saudis see suffrage as a "Western intrusion" — and women are still not allowed to drive themselves to the polls. SOURCE: AL JAZEERA

Woes in the woods

One of Canada's most beautiful trees — the emerald-green eastern hemlock — is "in intensive care," says a paper in the journal Science. Its enemy: a pinhead-sized Japanese insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid. It has infested more than half the hemlock's territory and kills almost every tree it attacks. Insecticides are expensive and labour intensive. Scientists may release a predator to eat the adelgid or breed hemlocks resistant to it. It's unclear if either can be done before the forest is emptied of an icon. SOURCE: SCIENCE





Decoding discrimination

Smart software can do a reasonable imitation of a human worker, even evaluating job applications and making loan decisions — but it turns out it's copying our flaws as well. Algorithms meant to eliminate discrimination may be replicating it instead, according to a new paper presented at an Australian data-mining conference. Researchers wrote a code that predicted applicants' race and gender based on the data used by a resumé-scanning program, which was apparently picking up on things like street names and applicant names, leading to unfair generalizations. SOURCE: GIZMODO

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

A book that makes you change the way you think, forever

Ta-Nehisi Coates tweets a lot lately about video games.

He tweets opaquely about video games. Example: "Pool of Radiance series is the best of the 80s old school joints. Those who disagree are base enemies of humanity."

Some of his followers openly wonder if his Twitter feed has been hacked. It has not.

The expectation is that the man who wrote Between the World and Me — which will be dubbed the most important book of the year/decade and can be found in the hands of Barack Obama and the pop singer JoJo — must tweet with the same gravitas with which he writes books: Burdened and proud, poetic and purposeful. And possibly only about race.

But it would be a mistake to think that if you read his book (everyone is reading his book) you will know him. That is never true.

The payoff is different, and better. You will understand, in as much intimacy as is possible, what life is like for a black man, if you are not one.

That is no small thing.

You will also find in a slim white book a heavy and disorienting theory of race, how it is inexplicably tied to the American (or capitalist) dream, and how small we all are in the face of that myth.

Destructive, too, because it's one of those books that doesn't let you go back to the way you used to think. It destroys your previous understanding of race and explains why, to quote Coates, there is no post-racial America and there will never be, unless the concept of "America" itself is destroyed.

No, it's not light summer reading. Yes, you should get a copy.

Probably, the book is most important for black Americans, and maybe black Canadians, and other so-called non-whites.

But I am a so-called white woman, and it is also an important book for me. Coates charges that in order to stop the oppression of black people, white people have to stop thinking they're white. We have to recognize that "whiteness" and racial hierarchies at large were created so that some people could exploit others, and that there is actually no biological basis for race (a basic fact, and part of why Rachel Dolezal was so fascinating).

I spend my days flitting about from article to article, one thin idea to the next. I often feel parched for depth, but can hardly seem to finish a book these days. I often think it's my fault.

But I read Coates' book in a weekend.

It's engrossing, beautiful and painful. Not very long, anything but thin.

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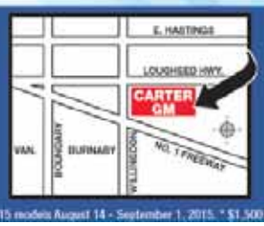

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"I have secretly over the last several years been viewing pornography on the Internet and this became a secret addiction and I became unfaithful to my wife.
- Josh Duggar, whose name was in leaked Ashley Madison database

Sinister 2 shtick far too slick

SCARY MOVIES

Glossy production makes horror hard to believe

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

When was the last time you were freaked out by a Hollywood movie?

I can admit that It Follows and Unfriended raised a few goosebumps and I recall a Saturday matinee screening of Paranormal Activity that was the first and only time I have ever heard anyone actually scream in a theatre. I don't mean a quiet whimper followed by an embarrassed laugh or a frightened little squeal. I mean a full-on, open-throated howl of terror.

But these days it seems to me those moments are becoming fewer and further between. Zombies have gone mainstream, vampires now sparkle in the sun and werewolves have hipster hairdos.

I find the news more upsetting than most mainstream monster movies.

A recent re-watch of In Cold Blood gave me a jolt unlike any recent traditional gore fest.

It's not a horror film in the conventional sense, but because it's a true story of a senseless murder, it sent shivers down my spine.

A new film this weekend, the haunted home-movie tale Sinister 2, can only be called a horror movie because it is so poorly made. It is terrifyingly badly made but there is nothing that will actually give you nightmares, and isn't that the whole point?

George Mihalka, director of My Bloody Valentine — a movie Quentin Tarantino calls his all-time favourite slasher film — agrees that conventional horror is in a rut.

"As long as mainstream horror focuses on glossy monsters and the perfectly backlit villain and stylish gore shots that could pass for TV commercial beauty shots where blood and victims are interchangeable with beer and models, there is nothing left to fear," he says.

"An honest well-developed character is the reflective mirror that conveys the reality of the monster, villain, serial killer, ghost, zombie or vampire. If there is no truth or reality in the performance we cannot truly believe in the menace. We are left as numb, detached voyeurs of slick boogeymen or at best rooting for them to kill off the annoying bad acting of interchangeable pretty plastic people."

Horror hero and Rue Morgue editor-in-chief Dave Alexander agrees that much Hollywood horror errs on the safe side, but says there are still thrills to be had at the movies.

"Foreign and indie horror movies — those titles that play genre festivals — are the most exciting and innovative because they're not as bound by the Hollywood business model that favours remakes, sequels and chasing trends.

That said, there are still chills to be had at the multiplex when a breakout title with an original concept comes along — one of the best recent examples being It Follows."

Chris Alexander, editor-in-chief of legendary N.Y.C.-based horror and dark fantasy film culture magazine Fangoria says "real horror has always thrived in the mainstream and elsewhere. Always will."

"Throughout horror history, there have always been 'lite' versions of more palpable big-screen terrors. From the various monster comedies of the 1940s (how many times did Bela run afoul of Bowery Boys and Brooklyn Gorillas?) to Abbott and Costello romps to The Munsters. And Dark Shadows was a vampire soap opera that romanticized vampires for lonely housewives.

"Horror in the mainstream has long been a gateway drug for young people and, if they are affected and obsessed by the films they see with their pals on a Friday night, they'll likely begin the endless quest to 'chase the dragon' and find darker terrors, which are in large supply, internationally. If it wasn't... I'd be out of a job!"

There is nothing to give you nightmares in Sinister 2 — expect maybe how bad it is, writes Crouse. HANDOUT

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Mistress America ★★★★
Fort Tilden ★★★★
Sinister 2 ★
Hitman: Agent 47 ★★
American Ultra ★★★
Bang Bang Baby ★★★

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Greta Gerwig, centre, is seen as one of the most authentic actors of her generation. HANDOUT

Flaky and unfocused? It's all just an act

GRETA GERWIG

Writer and star of Mistress America wants to direct next

Greta Gerwig is sitting in a Greenwich Village café trying to explain how she goes from being fully enmeshed in creating a film — co-writing it, producing it — to stepping into the story and inhabiting a character.

"My job is to almost get a bit unconscious about the whole thing," says Gerwig. "It's an odd paradox of completely knowing what you're doing — the language is in you, it makes sense — and also feeling like you're riding something but you don't have control of the speed."

She pauses. "I keep thinking of a jet ski. I don't know why."

Mistress America, which opens Aug. 28, is the second film Gerwig has co-written with director Noah Baumbach, who is also her boyfriend of several years. Together with Frances Ha, the two movies have established a wider view of Gerwig, already seen as among the most authentic actors of her generation.

Mistress, an '80s-movie inspired farce, and Frances, a French New Wave-inspired tale of 20-something struggle, prove that Gerwig is as deliberate as she is intuitive. Though her sincere, confused characters have the messy blurred lines of life, that doesn't mean they aren't finely drawn.

"She's broadening the scope of what she's doing," says Baumbach, who first cast her alongside Ben Stiller in Greenberg before the two became closer while making Frances Ha. "She's a real voice. It wouldn't be wrong to say she has an authorial voice before she's actually directed a movie."

But as Gerwig said in her recent interview, "That, sir, is in the works today." She's finalizing plans to direct a screenplay she wrote called Lady Bird that's set in her hometown of Sacramento, Calif. She'll shoot it in March, with Scott Rudin producing.

So, by jet ski or whatever watercraft metaphor you like, Gerwig is on the move. Up until now, her career, which began in the low-budget mumblecore films of Joe Swanberg (some of which she co-wrote) and has dabbled in failed sitcom pilots and larger studio films like Arthur and No Strings Attached, has often been depicted as a pinballing between indie and mainstream.

But in films of any size, working either in front of or behind the camera, Gerwig's esthetic — awkward, funny, without artifice — is remarkably consistent. It's kind of like the reverse of The Purple Rose of Cairo; instead of a movie character stepping off screen, she's like a real person stepping onto it.

> **Nobody was going to make any money, anyway. It seemed pointless not to amuse ourselves.**
> Greta Gerwig on making Mistress America

Mistress America was conceived around Gerwig's character, Brooke, a 30-year-old whirlwind of truly felt but poorly planned ambitions.

Her intoxicating orbit draws in Tracy (Lola Kirke), her stepsister to be, a freshman and budding writer at Barnard College (where Gerwig also went, with playwright aspirations). At the heart of the film in the friendship between Brooke and Tracy, who's infatuated by the larger-than-life Brooke. She begins writing stories glorifying but also humbling Brooke, who has been moving too fast to notice her youth slipping away.

Like Baumbach's last film, While We're Young, and Frances Ha, much of the drama comes from characters growing into or accepting their place in life.

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

'But what about Museum Mile?' I asked Greta Gerwig. Where does one economically refuel on the Upper East Side after hours of looking at art?

Designers Charles and Ray Eames were a couple who creatively collaborated with great success. In film, however, similar collaborations don't always have Hollywood endings: Vincente Minnelli directed Judy Garland; Woody Allen directed Mia Farrow; Guy Ritchie directed Madonna; and Noah Baumbach directed Jennifer Jason Leigh in Margot at the Wedding.

Baumbach separated from Leigh, his partner of nine years, in 2010 after he directed Greenberg, which co-starred Ben Stiller and Greta Gerwig, with whom he is now in a relationship.

A few years later, Baumbach and Gerwig co-wrote Francis Ha, which he directed and she starred in — a collaboration they've repeated with Mistress America, which opens Aug. 21, in Toronto and in other Canadian cities a week later.

Tracey (Lola Kirke) is a lonely college freshman. Her soon-to-be stepsister Brooke (Gerwig) enters the Manhattan-based picture and shakes things up with her spirited, yet peculiar, brand of adventure.

After the film premiered at Sundance, Variety said it was "one of Baumbach's warmest and purely funniest films," which may be on account of Gerwig. Her performance "confirms (her) as one of the great, fearless screen comediennes of her generation," they wrote, "a tall, loose-limbed whirligig who careers through scenes with the beatific ditziness of a Carole Lombard or Judy Holliday."

THE MOVIE: Mistress America

THE MEAL: Club sandwich with fries

And through life, too. I met Gerwig when she was in Toronto promoting Damsels in Distress during the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival. Hotel room junkets must have been relatively new and nerve-racking for the actress — as they were for me. In fact, Gerwig's junket was my first.

I don't remember details of the interview, other than that she was reading a novel when I entered the room. But I do remember what happened afterwards — and not the bit about how we lost the video footage: I'm talking about when I walked outside the Ritz Carlton and lit a cigarette.

Gerwig sat down beside me and asked for a light. She fumbled with the lighter — like Buster Keaton might, if he were wearing Prada — for minutes. After talking about restaurants in Toronto, Gerwig plucked my notebook and pen from my bag and began to write a list of New York eateries I should visit.

SriPraPhai in Queens, Murray's Bagels on 6th Ave and, of course, the Burger Joint hidden inside the Parker Meridien. "But what about Museum Mile?" I asked her. Where does one economically refuel on the Upper East Side after hours of looking at art?

Gerwig told me about Soup Burg, a diner at East 77th Street and Lexington, which for the next three years became my club sandwich-with-fries pit stop after gazing at Greek art and Gauguins.

The last time I went to grab a post-museum lunch in 2014, Soup Burg had unceremoniously closed its doors. It was a collaboration, of sorts, that I wish hadn't ended.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

MOVIE BRIEF

JLaw tops big bucks list

Forbes Magazine has released its annual list of the 50 highest-paid actresses, with Hunger Games star Jennifer Lawrence topping the list. Lawrence earned $52 million pre-tax over the last 12 months.

Scarlett Johansson was second, with a revenue of $35.5 million. Melissa McCarthy has amassed $23 million, earning her the third spot on Forbes' list.

The only non-American actress to feature on the list was Chinese actress Bingbing Fan, who came in at No. 4.

The list also brought with it a very telling statistic. Compared to the highest-paid male actors list, the women's combined earnings came in at $660 million less, confirming the gender-based pay difference in Hollywood. AFP

Jennifer Lawrence GETTY IMAGES

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KRISTEN STEWART

American Ultra proves she's a terrific thespian

Matt Prigge
Metro in New York City

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

The death of Swan and rise of Stewart

Before she scored the Twilight gig, Kristen Stewart was simply a young actress. She was a child performer, just like Jodie Foster, who played the mother of her tomboyish teen in Panic Room. Among her first wave of raves was for a small but key role in Into the Wild — a turn that acclaimed French filmmaker Olivier Assayas (Carlos) said made him want to work with her. Assayas would belatedly cast Stewart in Clouds of Sils Maria, which netted her a Cesar — the French equivalent of the Oscar — for best supporting actress earlier this year. She was the first American to get the trophy.

Around the time of Into the Wild's release in fall of 2007, Stewart landed the coveted role of Bella Swan in Twilight. After that her life was never the same, and not exactly for good. Her existence became a non-stop surveillance hellsuck, her every move documented, her dazed talk show appearances obsessively scrutinized, her sex life salivated upon by every publication. Most one-on-one interviews dwell on her fumbling but usually failed attempts to seem invisible as she walks among us.

What's worse, her brand seemed to suffer. Critics and non-Twi-hard audiences quickly turned to pouncing on Stewart. She still did indies and artier fare, but she was now The Girl from Those Movies — a starlet with unkempt hair and a perpetually open mouth trying in vain to score some cred. Right now it's surprising that Stewart — it should be said deservedly — won a fancy European acting award, and for a movie that's 80 per cent her onscreen with no less than Juliette Binoche. But it shouldn't be surprising. Stewart has always been a unique screen presence — a thespian of great subtlety who communicates razor-sharp intelligence with very tiny movements across her face.

As she got older, and both more used to and more annoyed with her 24/7 public life, Stewart has become more articulate, more bold, more confident and more easily vexed, especially when it comes to her privacy. She hasn't changed up her performances, though. In Clouds of Sils Maria, in which she plays the weary but loyal personal assistant to a frenzied actress played by Juliette Binoche, she still speaks her lines in a disaffected drawl. But especially when paired with Binoche, with whom she clicks like they were an old married couple, one can sense the intention of each line — the way she's in complete control of the way words come out of her mouth.

Stewart's Sils Maria turn is, in effect, "the Kristen Stewart performance" — roughly the same remote, alto-heavy approach seen in Into the Wild and Adventureland, plus other indies like Welcome to the Rileys (in which she's a prostitute to James Gandolfini), The Yellow Handkerchief (a road trip saga with her, William Hurt and Eddie Redmayne), The Runaways (doing a mean Joan Jett) and On the Road.

This week sees the release of American Ultra, which is a stoner action-comedy sort of in the vein of Pineapple Express. Jesse Eisenberg plays a sleeper agent-turned-burner who doesn't remember he has Jason Bourne moves until they're awoken. Stewart plays his equally toking girlfriend who helps him as they escape, and in his case often brutally kill, government agents wanting him dead.

She does a lot with very little. She's not particularly funny, nor is she asked to be. She's the film's rock — the power that gives it more weight than it perhaps deserves. This shouldn't be surprising, and it shouldn't be think piece-worthy. After all, she has a Cesar.

Panic Room, 2002

Into the Wild, 2007

The Runaways, 2010

Clouds of Sils Maria, 2014

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Substance over screen time

B MOVIE

Young Kevin Bacon would have turned down the role

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Kevin Bacon stars as a menacing sheriff in Jon Watts-directed Cop Car. HANDOUT

In Cop Car, a B-movie thriller about two kids who steal a police vehicle for a joyride, Kevin Bacon plays Sheriff Kretzer, a bad cop short on dialogue but long on menace. It's an intense role but one the Footloose star would have turned down that once upon a time.

"When I first started becoming an actor I would judge a role by how many lines I had," he says. "Then, later on, by, 'Where's my big scene?' As time has gone on, I've really loved the idea of trying to use everything cinema has to offer in terms of helping you unfold the mystery of who somebody is.

"Sheriff Kretzer is one of those guys who, somehow, even though there is very little being said, I had an image for who he would be. Sometimes it just comes to me."

Now into an almost four-decade long career — Bacon's first professional acting gig came in 1978 on the soap opera Search for Tomorrow — he's come to understand why less is often more on screen.

"Look at something like Diner," he says. "I didn't want that part because the guy didn't say much. I didn't know or trust that who he was would come through (in the scene where) I was just sitting there watching the college bowl. People talk about that as being the moment where they totally got the guy, but on the page I didn't get that. I was too naive to understand that. In the course of my career I have started to realize that the camera sees so much more than we see in real life.

"It's not that it just shoots real life, it's that it goes deeper. You shoot somebody's eyes, do a close-up on somebody's eyes, and you see things that the human eye can't see. It actually reaches down into that person's soul so you're exposed to something that is deeper and more beautiful."

Bacon says he and director Jon Watts give audiences everything they need to "metaphorically jump in the car and come along" without over explaining the characters.

The result is a violent film that transcends its B-movie roots to become a story about loss of childhood innocence.

"I think it is a surprisingly moving and emotional film," he says. "I know my wife (actress Kyra Sedgwick) feels that way."

> **When I first started becoming an actor I would judge a role by how many lines I had.**
> Kevin Bacon

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Triple threat in Bang Bang Baby

BANG BANG BABY

Levy digs out her LaDuca's for musical sci-fi fantasy

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Jane Levy plays a small town teenager with dreams of rock 'n' roll fame in Jeffrey St. Jules' Bang Bang Baby. HANDOUT

> **"I thought it would be a challenge to explore singing and dancing.**
> Jane Levy, actress

Jane Levy has a diverse resume that includes the cable hit Shameless (where she dies in a most fiery way), the sitcom Suburgatory and the 2013 remake of Evil Dead. But her new film, Bang Bang Baby takes her back to where she began: singing and dancing.

"I did musical theatre, mostly because it was the only theatre available, not to say anything negative about that, but I wanted to be an actor. I loved drama and that was the way to do it so I was in all the plays. I was in Annie. I was in Oklahoma. I was in Annie Get Your Gun and The Wizard of Oz," When she was seven years old the California native recalls about her seven-year-old self.

She warbled her way through Broadway-style shows until she was about thirteen when she traded the stage for the soccer field. It took a few years but eventually she felt a familiar draw.

"I was eighteen and I just finished my first year of college and I hated school," she says. "I was miserable the whole year and I couldn't quite figure out why.

"I was in Europe with my friend and I said, 'You know what? I'm not going to do it anymore. I'm not going to school. Why not pursue the thing that I know has always been, deep down, my dream?'"

She's back to basics in Bang Bang Baby, a strange new big screen sci-fi musical that gives her the chance to strut her stuff. In it, she plays Stepphy, a 1960s teenager whose dreams of rock 'n' roll stardom are dashed when a chemical leak in her town causes mass mutations and "threatens to turn her dream into a nightmare."

When she first saw the script she says, "I thought, how cool and how strange. I thought it would be a challenge to explore singing and dancing which is something I had done as a kid but not since. And I also thought how unusual, how peculiar, how fun."

Levy has a whole slate of films on the way, including the much-anticipated animated movie Monster Trucks, but the best part of it all, she says, is that she is able to act in a variety of projects.

"For me, I feel like this is the thing I have to do. This is the thing I enjoy the most and this is the thing I'm best at."

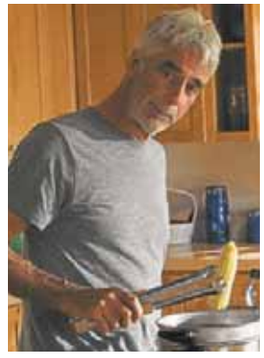
INTERVIEW

The outspoken Sam Elliott

Matt Prigge
Metro in New York City

"Hot one out there today," Sam Elliott says in that voice — that bass-y growl softened by his Oregonian twang. He's exactly what you'd expect from his movies, only not so laconic. He's talkative and not afraid to bridge certain subjects — say, the topic of abortion, which fuels his new film.

In Grandma, Lily Tomlin plays a poet trying to procure a safe procedure for her granddaughter (Julia Garner). Elliott plays one of Tomlin's old flames, still hurting that she left him decades before for a woman.



Sam Elliot. HANDOUT

Few films deal with aging in a serious way. This and I'll See You in My Dreams, with you and Blythe Danner, are exceptions.

People would ask (Brett Haley director of I'll See You On My Dreams) what kinds of films he wants to make. And he always basically said he wants to make films about real life. That's what I think this thing is too.

It's an honest portrayal of somebody that's experienced love and loss and is moving on in spite of it all — until the granddaughter comes knocking on the door.

I imagine parts of America that won't take to a film that, in its first five minutes, offers a lesbian character with a younger girlfriend trying to help her granddaughter get an abortion.

I'm anxious to see how often that's going to come up. It's such a polarizing subject. Paul (Weitz, Grandma's director), he's not bitin'. He's not bitin' when someone brings it up. Because it's not really what the movie's about.

This would have probably been a studio film at some point, but the market's changed.

I've certainly noticed that. But there's such a market for good independent films. Those types of filmmakers have to go elsewhere to tell their stories. If the big studios aren't going to do it, they can do it on their own. You can't keep a good film down.

I'll See You In My Dreams quietly made a few million dollars in theaters, even when it was on VOD. So there's an audience.

There's always an audience — an audience that's crying for intelligent, entertaining stuff. If I can go to a theater and be entertained, and I can cry and laugh at the same movie, then what the f—, man? That is the ultimate. And you can maybe be enlightened or educated.

It's like this whole abortion issue. Maybe you walk away from it saying, "Well, they didn't really deal with the pros and cons of it." But there is a moment where Lily looks at her granddaughter and says, "You're going to think about this every day of your life."

Somebody says that to you, you know that it's something worth considering. It's a very difficult decision. I come on the side that the government's got no business telling women what to do with their physicality. I'm very much pro-choice.

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China: Through the Looking Glass best-attended show at Met's Costume Institute

Oasis beyond The Strip

Las Vegas lures visitors from around the world with its bright lights, gambling and flamboyant shows. But even the most die-hard revellers can get worn out from the never-ending party on The Strip. Two of the top destinations for Vegas visitors who need a break are just 30 minutes to the southeast at the Arizona-Nevada state line: Hoover Dam and Lake Mead.

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1 Hoover Dam

Built between 1931-36, Hoover Dam is an architectural marvel, considered one of America's seven modern civil engineering wonders.

The dam spans 379 metres across Black Canyon and rises 221 metres from the Colorado River.

But like the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls, Hoover Dam is a sight — albeit man-made — where descriptions or pictures don't do it justice; it's something that has to be seen to truly appreciated.

The view from the road is unimpressive, but once you look over the edge to the sliver of river below, expect your breath to be taken away. The view from the O'Callaghan-Tillman Memorial Bridge above the dam — accessed from a parking lot on the road to Hoover Dam — also is spectacular and looking back toward the deep blue water of Lake Mead isn't bad, either.

The visitor centre offers interesting details about the dam's history, but to get a true appreciation, take the tour to see the inner workings.

A quick warning: The large elevator can be crowded and there are warnings about claustrophobia. The trip is short, though, and the friendly guides tend to ease the tension during the 161-metre ride down.

The 30-minute guided power plant tour includes viewing the nine-metre penstock pipes, which control the flow of water, along with massive generators and access to the visitor centre. The hour-long dam tour has the same elements, but visitors also get to explore the various tunnels throughout the dam and peer out the air vents facing the downstream face.

Online: usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam

2 Lake Mead

At full capacity, Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the United States. It hasn't been at capacity in decades, though, with water levels dropping more than 60 per cent due to drought conditions in the Southwest.

Even with low levels, Lake Mead is still one of the largest man-made lakes in the country — and there's plenty to do. During the summer, the main attraction is the water: boating, water skiing, jet skiing, swimming, fishing, house boating.

A warning here, too: This is the desert, so it gets very hot during the summer. Park rangers urge people not to hike after 8 a.m. and to bring along plenty of drinking water.

The lake has nine developed areas, though the boat ramps at Las Vegas Bay, Government Wash and Overton Beach are closed due to low water levels. Las Vegas Boat Harbor, Callville Bay Resort and Temple Bar Resort & Marina have boat rentals, stores and restaurants.

The park has nine wilderness areas and numerous campgrounds dotting the shoreline, including some that back right up to the water.

Though most of the nearly seven million visitors to Lake Mead come during the summer, other times of year offer activities like hiking, biking, off-roading, camping and fishing.

The low water levels have revealed new beaches and coves, along with a few new sights, including the ruins of St. Thomas, an Old West town that previously had been submerged. Divers also can see the remnants of a B-29 Superfortress that crashed into the lake in 1948.

Online: nps.gov/lake/index.htm

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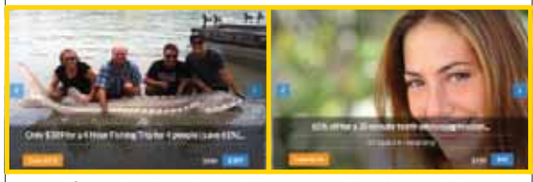

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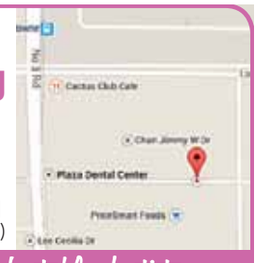

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TRAVEL NOTES

Jet-set pets
The Ark, a giant, privately owned airline animal terminal and transport facility, is set to open next year at New York's JFK airport. The multimillion-dollar, multi-purpose station is run in part by New York pet-service provider The Spot Experience, and will handle the import and export of horses, dogs, cats, birds, zoo animals and all kinds of livestock. Visit arkjfk.com.

The other Palm Beach
The all-inclusive Riu Palace Aruba, on the white sands of the Dutch Caribbean island's Palm Beach, has just reopened after a $32-million renovation. All rooms, restaurants, bars, pools and even the theatre have been made over. Other highlights include a casino, a golf course and a 24-hour sports bar. Visit Riu.com.

Passport tip
As a safety net in the event your passport goes AWOL, keep copies of it in your luggage. Stash one in your suitcase, one in your carry-on and even one in the sole of your sneakers, along with a jpg of it on your phone and on a cloud-based server. This may seem like overkill, but it makes replacing it so much simpler. Visit travel.gc.ca.

DOUG WALLACE

The export horse stalls at The Ark. CONTRIBUTED

The Riu Palace Aruba CONTRIBUTED

Keep a copy of your passport in a safe place. CONTRIBUTED

FROM PICNICS TO MYSTERY DINNERS

Fleeting eats: World's best pop-up dining experiences

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie

TD's PopUp in Portland, Ore. COURTESY THREE DEGREES TD'S POPUP

Looking for a unique culinary adventure on your next vacation? From eating mystery meals while blindfolded to themed picnics, the pop-up dining craze is here. Cheapflights.ca shared their suggestions with me on fun, yet fleeting, foodie experiences.

London is a hotbed for culinary tourism. Street Feast runs through to the end of September and brings together 50 of London's best street-food vendors for an epic dining experience. Not only will there be enticing food, from tacos and BBQ to dosas and grilled cheese, but those simply looking for a tipple can hang their hat at one of the many pop-up bars, slinging everything from tequila to gin.

Downtown Calgary is inviting people to dine al fresco. Every other Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. throughout the summer locals and visitors can experience Pop-Up Picnics. Each picnic has a different theme from a British garden party to circus and is held at different locations so you can go to all of them and never see or eat the same thing twice. Each picnic features a food vendor, live entertainment, games and picnic blankets.

Tacos? Check. Tequila? Also check. TD's PopUp in Portland, Ore., is an offshoot of the city's Three Degrees restaurant. The theme is simple: tacos and tequila served up on the banks of the Willamette River courtesy of Chef Thomas Dunklin. The tiny 10-seat counter-service pop-up runs along the waterfront until October from noon to 8 p.m.

Fans of ceviche might want to consider a trip to West Hollywood to the Mondrian Hotel to experience Chef Octavio Olivas' Ceviche Project running until Oct. 22. Monthly pop-up dinners are held at the hotel's Sky Bar; each one features five courses based around ceviche. The menu is dependent on what fresh fish the chef manages to find that day.

If you like your dinner with a side of mystery, check out Four Seasons Undercover, happening at several Four Seasons hotels throughout North America. At these dinners, guests are given no details about what to expect other than when to meet in the lobby. At the anointed meeting time, guests are blindfolded until it's time for the big reveal and they are presented with their one-of-a-kind dining experience.

EatWith isn't so much a traditional pop-up restaurant, but an off-the-cuff dining experience you won't get anywhere else. Chefs in cities around the world, vetted by EatWith, put together dinners based on whatever inspires them. Menus are listed online. Travellers simply search for menus in their destination city and find a meal that intrigues them, make a reservation and then sit down for a meal with their local host.

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metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news

Tiger Woods opened the Wyndham Championship with a 64, his best round in two years

IN BRIEF

9 NBAers on Canada's roster for warmup tourney

The Canadian men's basketball team will go with a 13-man roster for the Tuto Marchand Continental Cup exhibition tournament starting Sunday in Puerto Rico.

Nine current NBA players were named to the squad Thursday as the team wrapped up its camp with a final workout in Toronto. NBA rookie of the year Andrew Wiggins highlights the roster, which also includes Minnesota Timberwolves teammate Anthony Bennett.

The tourney is a warmup event ahead of the Aug. 31-Sept. 12 FIBA Americas tournament in Mexico City.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors sign Valanciunas to $64M extension

The Toronto Raptors have signed Jonas Valanciunas to a multi-year contract extension.

Jonas Valanciunas
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The deal announced on Thursday is worth a reported $64 million US. Valanciunas tweeted that the deal was for four years.

The seven-foot Lithuanian centre averaged a career-high 12.0 points last season, with team highs of 8.7 rebounds and 1.2 blocks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RG3 suffers stinger in pre-season game

With zero help from his offensive line, Robert Griffin III repeatedly wound up on the turf until leaving with a stinger and possible head injury after being sacked three times and fumbling twice Thursday night in the Washington Redskins' 21-17 exhibition victory over the Detroit Lions.

Griffin went 2-for-5 for eight yards on four possessions for Washington. On his final play, in the second quarter, he started to scramble but dropped the ball despite no contact. As the quarterback went to the ground to try to corral the loose ball, Lions defensive end Corey Wootton landed on Griffin. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL LIONS ON THE PROWL AGAINST ALS Lions defenders Steven Clarke, left, and Adam Bighill jar the ball loose after tackling the Alouettes' S.J. Green at BC Place Stadium on Thursday night. For the story, go to metronews.ca. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Icher grabs 18-hole lead at CP Women's Open

LPGA

Canadian Henderson at 2-under par

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Karine Icher posted the round of the day to start the CP Women's Open at Vancouver Golf Club in Coquitlam, but her score of 7-under par looked for a time like it could be much lower.

Starting her round in the afternoon, Icher was 5-under par through her opening nine holes and finished with two birdies on the back nine to close out her round. She also didn't record a bogey and will enter Friday with the lead over 2012 champion Lydia Ko.

Beginning in one of the early morning groups, Ko had an up-and-down start to her round, but settled onto a string of birdies, including three in her final four holes, to finish at 5 under for the day. She sits in sole possession of second place.

"Hopefully that will give me good momentum tomorrow," said Ko.

All eyes this week have been on 17-year-old Canadian sensation Brooke Henderson, who is coming off a dominant win in Portland last weekend, which ultimately cemented her LPGA Tour card for the remainder of 2015 and next season.

Karine Icher
HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

If there were nerves, she didn't show any on the first hole, draining a lengthy birdie putt.

However, she did miss a pair of short putts — one for par on the fourth hole and one for birdie on the fifth — early in the round. She was able to find a groove later on, sinking a difficult birdie putt on the 14th hole before finishing 2-under par in front of the Canadian fans that followed her around the course.

"The crowds were unbelievable, and just to be back home in Canada and playing in front of them was really cool," she said.

"Today was a little bit up and down, but I was able to get it together a little more on the back nine and finish 2 under."

Playing in the same group as Henderson, American Stacy Lewis carded a 4-under 68 to sit in a tie for third.

A constant theme following Thursday's round was talk about the greens and how firm and quick they were, even under mostly cloudy and cooler conditions.

Brooke Henderson
GETTY IMAGES

The weekend forecast is calling for sun and warmer temperatures, which could speed up the greens even more.

"The ball is releasing on the greens, so you've got to be careful where you're landing it so you give yourself a good uphill putt," said Henderson.

Vancouver's Jessica Wallace, a Canucks fan, hit a first-round 73 at the CP Women's Open DAVID CANNON/GETTY IMAGES

Comforts of home aid Wallace

CP WOMEN'S OPEN

Local golf star hoping to use venue to her advantage

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver Canucks pin sits in the right corner on the bill of Jessica Wallace's hat. She's a fan, showing her pride at this week's CP Women's Open in Coquitlam.

She played the pro-am at Vancouver Golf Club on Monday with Kirk McLean, the Canucks goalie who will live on in local lore thanks to the 1994 playoff run.

"I was so pumped about that," she said. "So I brought out my Canucks jersey and had him sign it. I was like, 'You are a legend, sir!'"

"I get to sleep in my own bed. I get to hang out with my family. It's really cool.

Jessica Wallace on the benefits of playing a tournament close to home

Wallace's fan experience from Monday has since given way to the rigours of the opening round of the tournament.

Her round started well enough with a score of one-under par on the front nine but hit two snags on the back half on the way to a first-round score of one-over par, 73.

The Langley product's only blip was a double-bogey on the 15th hole, a 415-yard par four.

"I had it going on the front nine. Not that I was stuffing it or anything but I was just hitting smart shots," she said.

"Just let one shot get away from me on the back and had to hit out of a blackberry bush and it didn't turn out well."

Once a member of Redwoods Golf Course in Langley, Vancouver Golf Club is a course she admits she wasn't familiar with prior to this week's practice rounds. While there's an element of the unknown, there are benefits to playing in a tournament so close to home.

"I get to sleep in my own bed. I get to hang out with my family. It's really cool," she said.

The next objective for Wallace is to make the cut by the end of her second round Friday. She's set herself up in a position to do so after the opening round.

"I'm just going to go out, hole-by-hole, shot-by-shot," she said.

PREMIER LEAGUE IN BRIEF

Manchester City bolster defence with Otamendi deal

Manchester City strengthened its defence for the team's bid to regain the Premier League title by signing Argentina centre back Nicolas Otamendi from Valencia on Thursday, taking spending this summer close to 100 million pounds ($156 million).

Otamendi signed a five-year deal and reportedly cost City about 40 million euros ($44.6 million). He became the fourth Argentina player in City's squad, joining Pablo Zabaleta, Martin Demichelis and Sergio Aguero.

City has already signed England winger Raheem Sterling for a club-record 49 million pounds ($76 million) and also brought in England midfielder Fabian Delph as it looks to reclaim the league trophy from Chelsea, and win it for a third time in five years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chelsea beat Manchester United to Pedro's signature

While Chelsea awaits a first win on the field this season, the Premier League champions scored a satisfying victory in the transfer market on Thursday by beating Manchester United to the signing of Pedro Rodriguez from Barcelona.

A fee worth 30 million euros ($33 million) was agreed to bring the 28-year-old forward to Chelsea, with three million euros dependent on his performances, Barcelona said. The high-profile recruitment of a player who has won every major honour shifts the narrative at Chelsea following an unruly start to the season, particularly as it left United reassessing its transfer targets.

Chelsea is enduring its worst start to a season for 17 years, going back before billionaire Roman Abramovich's 2003 takeover. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Josh Donaldson for AL MVP ... 'Who else?'

MLB

Third baseman has led Jays into playoff contention

Among the favoured expressions of Blue Jays' outfielder Jose Bautista is a kind of practised incredulity. Suggest for instance that Mike Trout is the consensus frontrunner for American League MVP and you will be met with a sharp, quizzical glare.

"What?" he shot back at on Wednesday. "Says who?"

The notion that Trout, the Angels' 24-year-old centre-fielder, is the favourite to win his second MVP in as many years is a foreign one to Bautista. "I don't know where you're making that assertion from," he said. "I would be surprised if he was."

It's no surprise whom Bautista believes is most deserving of the title.

"Josh Donaldson," he said. "No doubt. Who else?"

For Bautista, not only is his teammate the frontrunner, he's the only one in the race.

"If the season ended today, he should be the MVP. There's no doubt in my mind. There shouldn't be a doubt in anybody's mind, no offence to any other player."

Josh Donaldson and Mike Trout each had 33 home runs as of Thursday afternoon.
ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

With the Blue Jays opening a three-game series against the Angels this weekend, the MVP debate will be in the spotlight as Donaldson and Trout face off for the first time since May.

With all due respect to Bautista, it is a true, two-horse race. Donaldson and Trout have 33 home runs apiece and they are both hitting just a shade under .300. Trout has a higher on-base and slugging percentage, but Donaldson has scored and driven in more runs. According to various metrics, Donaldson has been the better defensive player this season, while Trout adds more value on the basepaths and plays a tougher position.

6.7

According to Fangraphs, Trout has a wins above replacement value of 6.7, while Donaldson is at 6.6.

"We could talk about Trout until we're blue in the face," said Jays centre-fielder Kevin Pillar. "We all know he's the best player in the world. What he does is incredible for how young he is and how talented he is. But you look at the bigger picture of what Josh has meant to this team and where this franchise is at for the first time in a long period of time, you've got to take that into consideration."

Do you? That's at the heart of the debate. What does "most valuable" mean? If the Jays win their division and the Angels don't, is Donaldson more deserving? No definition is given to the 30 baseball writers — two from each American League city — who vote on the award. For some, it's strictly a matter of individual achievement. It should be given to the league's most outstanding player, period, regardless of team performance. For others, a player's value is relative to his team.

"What defines an MVP? I guess it's if you take that guy out of the team it changes the complexion of the team," said Jays catcher Russell Martin. "Who has the biggest impact on their team? It's always going to be debatable. It's kind of hard to compare an outfielder to a third baseman."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Tomlin shuts down Yankees

Josh Tomlin had his second impressive start since returning from shoulder surgery, Cody Allen worked out of his own jam in the ninth inning Thursday night and the Cleveland Indians held on for a 3-2 victory over the New York Yankees.

Tomlin only allowed Alex Rodriguez's 680th career home run leading off the fourth and a double to Chase Headley in seven deliberate innings. The right-hander has been touched for just three runs and seven hits in 13-1/3 innings since coming back from his second major operation since 2012.

The Yankees are 1-1/2 games ahead of the Blue Jays atop the AL East after the loss. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dodgers on verge of topping $300M plateau

Chase Utley's acquisition put the Los Angeles Dodgers close to becoming the first baseball team with a $300 million luxury-tax payroll.

The trade Wednesday that sent the six-time all-star second baseman from Philadelphia to the NL West leaders raised the Dodgers' projected payroll for tax purposes to about $298.5 million, according to calculations by Major League Baseball. Performance bonuses for other players and end-of-season award bonuses could make the Dodgers the first team to reach the $300 million mark. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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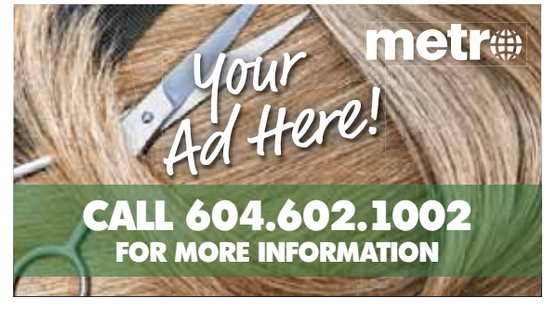


RECIPE Tex Mex Chicken and Corn Soup

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

A perfectly spiced Southwestern soup that's easy to make and is filling enough to be the main course. Serves 6.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 16 minutes

Ingredients
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 corn cob (kernels cut off) or 1 cup canned and drained corn niblets
- 1 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp cumin powder
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 cups diced rotisserie or leftover chicken
- 1 cup canned, drained and rinsed black beans
- 1/2 cup diced tomato
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro
- 1/3 cup grated light Monterey Jack cheese or Old Cheddar

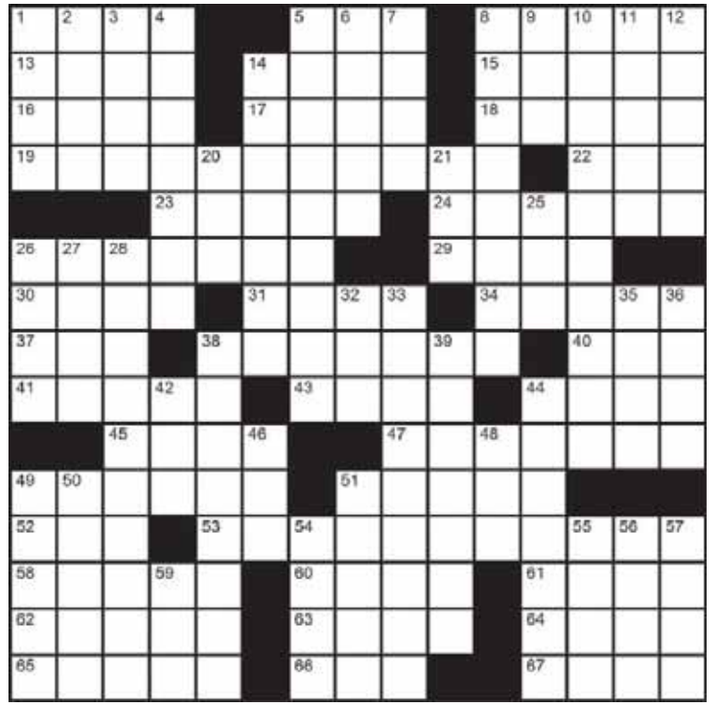
Directions
1. In large pot, heat oil and add onion. Sauté for three minutes. Add garlic, red pepper, corn, chili powder, cumin and salt and pepper and sauté for another three minutes.
2. Add chicken, beans, tomatoes and stock. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Garnish with cilantro and cheese.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 216
- Protein 19 g
- Carbohydrates 18 g
- Fibre 3 g
- Total fat 7.5 g
- Saturated fat 2.5 g
- Cholesterol 10 mg
- Sodium 415 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Oliver of "Oliver!" (1968)
5. "Today" rival, commonly
8. Jazz improvisations
13. Old Rome's 156
14. Pool-playing props
15. Banish
16. Pack _ __ (Get ready to vacation)
17. Bubbly bar
18. Keepsake of yore
19. St. Ives product: 2 wds.
22. Tennis call
23. Smiler's pride
24. Those who have just had dental surgery might avoid eating them for a time
26. Winona Ryder's character in "Little Women" (1994): 2 wds.
29. Mr. Egoyan
30. Oscar-winner Mr. Jannings
31. Frost
34. Spew
37. Down
38. Adorn with garlands
40. Tea: French
41. Slow garden dweller
43. Norse thunder god
44. Scottish slope
45. Miss White of fairytales
47. Church bell ringers
49. "Fantasy Island" character
51. Fibber __ and Molly (Old-time radio show)
52. Lisa Loeb song: 2 wds.
53. Canadian nutritionist known for her healthy recipes: 2 wds.
58. Blue hue
60. Auth. unknown
61. Kingly address
62. Persist
63. Use the Xerox
64. Desire Under the __ (Eugene O'Neill play)
65. Bonfire remnants
66. Starring actress in "Titanic" (1997) ...her initials-sharers
67. Week parts

DOWN
1. Mil. fliers
2. British actor Idris
3. Leave a disaster area, for short
4. As per #26-Down... __ Correspondent
5. As per #26-Down... Regular __ __
6. Concert stuff fans would buy, fun-style
7. Ancient stringed instrument
8. Prohibited
9. Big Joe Mufferaw's tool
10. Metric length unit
11. Worked at, as a trade
12. Religious orders
14. Horse-drawn carriage in Old Montreal
20. __ Lingus
21. "Surfin' _._._" by The Beach Boys
25. Journal
26. Ms. Allen of CTV's "The Social" who is the show's #4-Down and #5-Down
27. Its capital is Muscat
28. Flair for fortune: 2 wds.
32. Sports fig.
33. Agriculture... Carrots and beets: 2 wds.
35. Dog breed, __-Pei
36. Casual tops
38. Workers laying down tile, perhaps
39. Mountain formation process
42. Chg. card percentage
44. Fortunate
46. Court
48. Floral souvenir
49. Headdress for Kate, Prince William's wife
50. Carpentry tools
51. Thompson Twins hit: "Hold __ __"
54. Potatoes holder
55. Ben Mulroney's mom
56. Canadian __ (Military force)
57. Loch of legend
59. Blanche's portrayer on "The Golden Girls"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You may want to take some kind of gamble today but that might not be such a good idea. You are advised to remember that there are no easy routes to success: it takes hard work, stamina and common sense.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
What you see and hear today may shock you but don't getting upset or angry. Other people's actions may not be to your liking but there is not much you can do about it.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You may be tempted to start something over that is not going as well as expected but if you do it may never get done. Your best course of action is to plod on and hope for the best.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You have to decide whether or not to continue with a creative project. Think about how much effort you have already put into it. All that will be wasted if you give up now.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone feels you owe them and they are about to demand that you pay up in full. You must not let them pressure you into parting with cash. If you owe them a favour then you should pay back in kind.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It is likely that something or someone will delay or even halt your progress. It may be frustrating but there is not much you can do about it. Stay calm and don't lose your temper.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You should be making plans that stretch well into the future — not weeks or months but decades. You need a vision, something to aim for, something to inspire you. The details can be sorted out later.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Important decisions have to be made today. With the Sun at odds with Saturn in your sign you must get tough, both with others and with yourself.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Use your imagination and visualize what it is you most want to accomplish and what kind of person you most want to be. Don't let the critics and cynics hold you back. You can do anything!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You have some pretty remarkable ideas buzzing around inside that big head of yours. Don't share them with people in positions of power. They may fear, rightly, that you are aiming to outshine them.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Say what you mean and mean what you say. Don't worry if certain people don't like it. There may be a backlash but you are big enough and tough enough to ride out the storm.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't go over the top and make enemies of people who should be friends. You may be speaking the truth, but if you hurt others' feelings they will hurt you right back.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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